IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application No.: 10/087.234 Examiner Hwang, Joon H. Filed: March 1, 2002 Group/Art Unit: 2166 Inventors: Atty, Dkt, No: 5681-11700 Ajay Kumar Hanumanthu Rao Susarla ~~~~~~~~~~~~ Prakash Khemani Title: LOCK MECHANISM FOR A DISTRIBUTED DATA SYSTEM

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION OF DECEMBER 6, 2006

Mail Stop Amendment

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450

P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

This paper is submitted in response to the Office Action of December 6, 2006, to further highlight why the application is in condition for allowance.

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Please amend the case as listed below.